

Fig. 2. Distribution of the Eurasian Collared-Dove in Guadeloupe and nearby satellites, with estimated sizes of sub-populations.

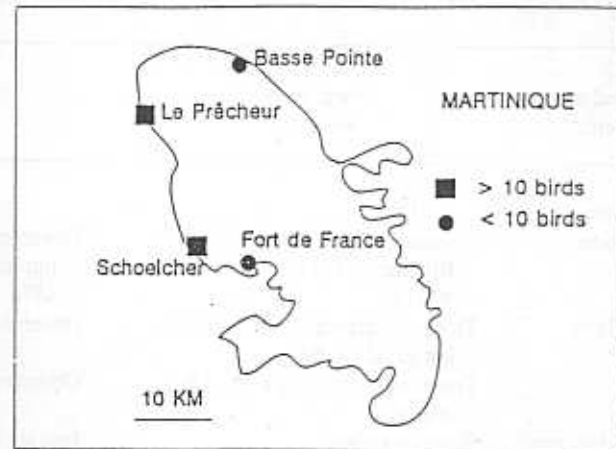


Fig. 3. Distribution of the Eurasian Collared-Dove in Martinique and estimated sizes of sub-populations.

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### THE EURASIAN COLLARED-DOVE ON NEVIS

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Bill Smith's note in the Fall 1995 edition of *El Pitirre* has prompted me to report some sightings of Eurasian Collared-Dove, *Streptopelia decaocto*, on Nevis, one of the smaller islands in the Lesser Antilles. Up to six birds were resident at Montpellier Plantation Inn during my stay there between 28 March and 9 April 1995. Four of the birds appeared to be paired; they were flying together in pairs and one pair was seen displaying. During my stay there this year from 29 March to 11 April, only four birds were present; one pair was seen mating. I had previously stayed at Montpellier Plantation Inn for two weeks during the period January to mid-April in 1990, 1992 and 1993, but had not seen any Eurasian Collared-Doves. Although I am familiar with the Eurasian Collared-Dove, which is common in Britain and Europe, I was initially misled by the American field guides, which seemed to indicate that the birds must be Ringed Turtle-Dove, *Streptopelia risoria*. These field guides do not seem to have taken into account Smith's analysis (1987).

The overall coloring of the birds was light buff or tan with contrasting blackish primaries, with a distinctive black collar around the nape reaching each side of the neck. They had a distinctive tri-syllable call (ooo-oooo-oo) with the emphasis being on the second syllable. The call was often repeated in a monotonous fashion. They also made a mewing call, particularly when landing. Having reviewed Smith's 1987 article, I am now confident that they are Eurasian Collared-Doves. The origin of these birds requires further investigation. Obviously, we should all be keeping a look-out for the birds on other islands where they have not so far been identified.

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- Smith, P. W. 1987. The Eurasian Collared-Dove arrives in the Americas. *Am. Birds* 41:1370-1379.
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